



## Security Council

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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 15 April 1986, the United States of America launched a brutal and vicious attack on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya during which hundreds of American aircraft dropped "smart bombs" by night on the residence of the Leader of the Great Revolution, brother Muammar Qaddafi, and on civilian targets in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, killing Qaddafi's adopted daughter and dozens of women and children and wounding hundreds of others in their sleep.

The whole world denounced this attack and protested against it at all levels, believing that it represented the most abject form of State terrorism. The General Assembly condemned it by an overwhelming majority and affirmed, in its resolution 41/38, the right of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to receive appropriate compensation for the material and human losses inflicted upon it. The Security Council, however, was unable to condemn the attack because the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France abused their privilege which is the right of veto. To date, terrorism in the form of the United States veto continues to paralyse the Council's effectiveness and makes the Council incapable of punishing the aggressor and adopting a resolution which would force the perpetrators to be brought to justice so that justice might be done. Yet the same Council was suddenly able to demonstrate its effectiveness when it adopted, under pressure from the United States of America, resolutions imposing harshly unjust sanctions against the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in a matter which was unfairly politicized and whose disastrous effects continue to be felt by the Libyan people because the United States of America refuses to settle it by peaceful means and agree to have the two persons suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie affair tried in a neutral country or at the seat of the International Court of Justice.

This blatant inconsistency in the way the Security Council handles international affairs shows the extent of the influence of the United States of America in the Council and the manner in which that country slants it in order to realize its aspirations and murderous plans. The United States has put pressure on the Council to become involved in a legal dispute which is not of its competence and has prevented the Council from expressing the international

community's will by condemning the blatant attack which was perpetrated under false pretenses, as German investigations subsequently showed.

The Charter confers on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, on the basis of the principle of neutrality and the sovereign equality of States. For this reason it must renounce the use of two different standards and base its actions on the principles of the Charter; it must reflect the will of the international community as expressed in General Assembly resolution 41/38, the implementation of which we await, just as we wait for the Security Council to follow up on the concrete measures the resolution calls upon it to take by remaining seized of the question of the attack by the United States of America against the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed A. AZWAI  
Permanent Representative

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